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PATENT  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Andrew Z. FIRE

Application No.: 09/215,257

Filed: December 18, 1998

For: **GENETIC INHIBITION BY DOUBLE-STRANDED RNA**

Group Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: K. A. Lacourciere

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT & REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION  
SETTING FORTH RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

This Reply is responsive to the Office Action dated May 21, 2002, the time period for response to which expires June 21, 2002. Entry of the following election of species and claim amendments and reconsideration of the claimed subject matter is respectfully requested:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please consider the following amended claims:

1. (Fourth Time Amended) A method to inhibit expression of a target gene in a cell in vitro comprising introduction of a ribonucleic acid (RNA) into the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit expression of the target gene, wherein the RNA is a double-stranded molecule with a first strand consisting essentially of a ribonucleotide sequence which corresponds to a nucleotide sequence of the target gene and a second strand consisting essentially of a ribonucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the target gene, wherein the first and the second ribonucleotide <sup>strands</sup> ~~sequences~~ are separate

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